

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 EB-07

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O 251445Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2021

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 9044

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, MORG, KE, SO

SUBJECT: KENYAN PATROL BOATS IN DIFFICULTY; SEEK ASSISTANCE

REF: NAIROBI 8855

1. EARLY AUGUST 25 BRIGADIER PETER KAKENYI, CHIEF OF STAFF KENYAN ARMY, TELEPHONED EMBASSY TO DISCUSS DIFFICULTIES BEING ENCOUNTERED BY NEW KENYA NAVY PATROL BOATS CURRENTLY EN ROUTE HERE FROM UK. KAKENYI SAID PATROL BOATS ARE NOW OFF SOMALI COAST, CANNOT MAINTAIN THEIR SPEED DUE BAD WEATHER, AND DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH FUEL TO REACH MOMBASA. HE NOTED THAT BOATS COULD ASK TO BUNKER IN MOGADISCIO, BUT FOR OBVIOUS REASONS GOK WISHES AVOID MAKING THAT REQUEST OF SOMALI AUTHORITIES. HE OBSERVED THAT USS CAPODANNO HAD BEEN IN MOMBASA UNTIL AUGUST 23, AND ASKED IF THAT SHIP MIGHT BE IN POSITION TO HELP KENYAN PATROL BOATS WITH THEIR FUEL PROBLEMS.

2. KAKENYI WAS TOLD THAT USS CAPODANNO HAD EMBARKED ON
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11-DAY CRUISE TO KARACHI, AND THAT IT WAS PROBABLY NOT

CARRYING EXCESS FUEL. NONETHELESS, EMBOFF WHO SPOKE WITH KAKENYI UNDERTOOK TO EXPLORE HIS REQUEST FURTHER AND CALL BACK AUGUST 26.

3. EMBASSY WAS SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED BY MINDEF OFFICER THAT TWO OF PATROL BOATS WERE TOGETHER AS OF 0900 AUGUST 25 AT LATITUDE 07 DEGREES 49 MINUTES NORTH AND LONGITUDE 50 DEGREES 12 MINUTES EAST. THEIR COURSE WAS 210 DEGREES AND SPEED EIGHT KNOTS. THIS PLACES THEM ABOUT 200 MILES NORTH OF MOGADISCIO AND APPROXIMATELY 50 MILES OFFSHORE. THE THIRD PATROL BOAT APPARENTLY HAS ENOUGH FUEL AND IS PROCEEDING INDEPENDENTLY TOWARD MOMBASA.

4. I DO NOT RECOMMEND THAT USS CAPODANNO BE ORDERED TO ALTER ITS SCHEDULE TO ATTEMPT ACCOMMODATE THIS REQUEST. IN ADDITION TO OBVIOUS, PERHAPS UNSURMOUNTABLE, LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED, THERE IS DANGER OF SOVIET REACTION TO US FRIGATE HEADING TOWARD SOMALI COAST. NONETHELESS, IT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED BY GOK IF WE COULD IN SOME WAY BE RESPONSIVE TO THEIR PROBLEM. IT MAY BE THAT A US COMMERCIAL VESSEL OR OTHER FRIENDLY NATION (UK, FRANCE, GERMAN, JAPAN) VESSEL IS IN THE AREA AND IN A POSITION TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO HELP. I SUGGEST THIS MATTER BE GIVEN IMMEDIATE ATTENTION BY DEPARTMENT AND THAT EMBASSY BE INFORMED BY NIACT IMMEDIATE OF ANY SOLUTION OR RECOMMENDATIONS WE MIGHT PASS ALONG TO GOK FOR RESOLUTION THIS PROBLEM. MARSHALL

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